

Today's News - Tuesday, October 14, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us Hybel's profile of Meier and his "uncompromising style"; and eye-fuls of 7 imaginative pavilions (indeed!).
- Bernstein looks at why Sorkin's counter-competition to the Guggenheim Helsinki "isn't a stunt but a real competition" that "raises important issues for the Guggenheim jurors to consider."
- Betsky crunches the numbers from a new study to ponder whether the "era of big museums" is over.
- Apparently not: Wainwright parses Hadid's design for a new genocide museum and research institute in Cambodia, "a radical shift for its architect who has gone from violent geometry to warm wood" (and "looking like a futuristic descendant of Angkor Wat").
- Merrick makes his Stirling pick: O'Donnell + Tuomey's LSE student center that "makes art of even the humblest of buildings. The sheer ambition of the design on such a dreadful site is absolutely remarkable" (and interesting observations about others on the shortlist).
- In a new poll, 70% said the Stirling should not be given to any project "unless it was sustainable," but some really big names "have hit back, saying the award should not be judged on a project's green credentials."
- Safdie calls for a "reorientation" of the way cities are designed: "the vogue for skyscrapers and the privatization of public space has led to 'the privatization of the public realm' and an erosion of urban connectivity."
- Hume x 2: Toronto should pay heed to a new report that "explains how New York, Paris and London have done what Toronto seemingly can't: plan logically and sustainably for the future of transit."
- He talks to Birnbaum re: why it's worth it to spend money on creative parks: Toronto may be "new to the idea of the park as a 'cultural' artifact," but (slowly) "new neighborhoods are being organized around parks, not the other way around."
- British landscape photographer Pollok-Morris tools around the final leg of the High Line, and really likes what he sees (with his own fab photos to prove it).
- Scruggs takes stock of the pedestrian bridge "everyone wants to copy": 70 miles north of the High Line, the Walkway Over the Hudson's "local impact has been significant - 'an angel sent from heaven to assist in the renaissance of the city of Poughkeepsie.'"
- Capps delves deep into how Lamster is helping Dallas find its voice, becoming the "Big D's fiercest critic of mediocrity - he wields a big bullhorn."
- Barash cheers the Chicago Architecture Biennial naming Tabing as executive director - his appointment "is reassuring."
- A report from the Slovenian design biennial that "avoided the lure of celebrity": "Europe's oldest design biennial celebrated its 50th birthday with nary a big-name designer in site"; instead, it focused on tackling real-world problems.
- A good reason to head to L.A. next week: the 2014 ACADIA International Conference at SCI-Arc "will push the boundaries of contemporary design technology and define new paradigms for design thinking" (impressive keynoters, too!).
- A not-well-known (for now, anyway) Chinese architect wins the inaugural \$100,000 Moriama RAIC International Prize for a "modest" library that is "a wondrous thing to use and be in."
- An interesting mix makes up the LEAF Awards 2014 winners.
- Booth is not at all bothered that the Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award went to "a scheme involving smashing down a sea wall and allowing 183 hectares to be flooded" instead of "far more glamorous projects."
- Call for entries: IE School of Architecture & Design IE Spaces for Innovation Prize for young architects and designers (registration deadline looms!).

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-- Richard Meier & Partners: Few architects have retained such an uncompromising style throughout a more than five-decade-long practice. By Jakob Harry Hybel
-- 7 Imaginative Pavilions -- Foster & Partners; Diller + Scofidio + Renfro; Ai Weiwei; SANAA; Atelier Peter Zumthor; Sverre Fehn; Kazuyo Sejima & Associates

Commentary: Does Helsinki Need Two Competitions? Guggenheim Foundation...launched an architecture competition...reveling in the news that [it] drew 1,715 entries...A group of architects led by Michael Sorkin has mounted a counter-competition called The Next Helsinki...isn't a stunt but a real competition...raises important issues for the Guggenheim jurors to consider... By Fred A. Bernstein- Architectural Record

Is the Era of Big Museums Over? ...data from a recent study on museums...by the Fondazione di Venezia..."Museums on the Map 1995-2012"...confirm that museums must be important because of the amount of money we spend on them...we use them to assert and solidify our wealth and achievement, to mark our landscapes, and to anchor our communities...Very few of the new museums are expressive or even attempt to break out of the box. By Aaron Betsky -- Renzo Piano; Tadao Ando; Sauerbruch & Hutton; Herzog & de Meuron; David Chipperfield; Frank Gehry; Santiago Calatrava- Architect Magazine

The Sleuk Rith Institute: Zaha Hadid's soft hymn to Cambodia's fallen: Built to house a vast archive of documents about the Cambodian genocide of the 1970s...Institute is to be a radical shift for its architect -- who has gone from violent geometry to warm wood...Looking like a futuristic descendant of Angkor Wat...a new genocide museum and research institute...set in an expansive new park south of the centre of the capital, Phnom Penh. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Riba Stirling Prize: LSE's Saw Swee Hock Student Centre makes art of even the humblest of buildings: ...exceptional architecture...The sheer ambition of the Student Centre's design on such a dreadful site is absolutely remarkable. By Jay Merrick -- O'Donnell + Tuomey Architects; Zaha Hadid; Renzo Piano; Mecanoo; Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios; Haworth Tompkins [images]- Independent (UK)

Leading architects reject calls for RIBA Stirling Prize sustainability threshold: ...70% of those polled said the UK's most prestigious architectural honour should not be given to any project 'unless it was sustainable'...But top architects, including a number of those previously shortlisted for the Stirling Prize, have hit back, saying the annual award should not be judged on a project's green credentials.- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Skyscrapers are creating "disjointed and disconnected" cities says Moshe Safdie: ...has called for a "reorientation" of the way cities are designed, saying that the vogue for skyscrapers and the privatisation of public space is creating cities that are "not worthy of our civilisation"...has led to "the privatisation of the public realm" and an erosion of urban connectivity.- Dezeen

Toronto should take a leaf from three other greening cities: A report explains how New York, Paris and London have done what Toronto seemingly can't: plan logically and sustainably for the future of transit...Toronto...has

divided the problem into an endless series of discrete, often disconnected, elements that are handled by separate departments and agencies, each one blissfully unaware of the others. By Christopher Hume -- Sustainable Prosperity Institute- Toronto Star

Creative parks cost money, and they're worth it: A city park can be innovative, imaginative and carry cultural weight. In Toronto, we're only starting to try...We are new to the idea of the park as a "cultural" artifact...on the waterfront...new neighbourhoods are being organized around parks, not the other way around. By Christopher Hume -- Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscapes Foundation- Toronto Star

Yard Meets Garden in High Line Phase 3: Any lover of naturalistic planting and contemporary hard landscaping can marvel at how literally millions of people are being funneled through an exquisite experience...the new section...clearly taken on board the park's more functional deficits and have expanded the park in new directions. By Allan Pollok-Morris -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller, Scofidio + Renfro [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Everyone Wants to Copy This Pedestrian Bridge (It's Not the High Line): 70 miles up the Hudson River...Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park celebrated its fifth anniversary..."It happened on time and on budget"...its local impact has been significant..."an angel sent from heaven to assist in the renaissance of the city of Poughkeepsie"... By Gregory Scruggs - Next City (formerly Next American City)

How Dallas Found Its Voice: An unusual agreement between a newspaper and a university brought Mark Lamster to Dallas. Now this transplanted New Yorker has become Big D's fiercest critic of mediocrity...elevating the city through his reporting and criticism....Bulldog is just one of the roles that he plays for The Dallas Morning News...as the city's only architecture critic, who also serves as a fellow for its only architecture school, he wields a big bullhorn. By Kriston Capps - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

The Plot Thickens: Chicago Architecture Biennial Appoints Ty Tabing as Executive Director: ...that he of downtown retail recruitment, he of State Street public art, he of all-night Looptopia events, he of economic development on the balmy shores of Singapore - has been appointed...is reassuring. By F. Philip Barash- Newcity Design (Chicago)

Bio 50: Ljubljana: The Slovenian design biennial avoided the lure of celebrity, instead inviting designers from around the globe to team up and tackle real-world problems: Europe's oldest design biennial...celebrates its 50th birthday with nary a big-name designer in site..."3, 2, 1... TEST"...focusing on experimentation and collaboration.- Icon (UK)

2014 ACADIA International Conference: Design Agency: will push the boundaries of contemporary design technology and define new paradigms for design thinking; Keynote speakers include: Zaha Hadid, Will Wright/SimCity, Marc Fornes/TheVeryMany, Greg Otto/Walter P. Moore; University of Southern California School of Architecture, Los Angeles, October 22-25- Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA)

Li Xiaodong wins inaugural Moriyma RAIC International Prize for "modest" Liyuan Library: ...\$100,000 (£55,000) Moriyma Prize...awarded specifically to a building that is already in use, rather than a new project or body of work..."a lovely object in a dramatic landscape, a wondrous thing to use and be in"... [images]- Dezeen

LEAF Awards Winners 2014: ...setting the benchmark for the international architectural and design community. -- Tabanlıoğlu Architects Melkan Gursel & Murat Tabanlıoğlu; studio mk27; Mount Fuji Architects Studio; Wilmotte & Associés; Boogertman + Partners Architects; CoCo Architecture; O'Donnell + Tuomey; Ateliers Jean Nouvel/PTW Architects; MZ Architects; Aedas; Mongkok; Maisam Architects & Engineers [images]- Arena International

West Sussex sea wall relocation wins building award: Project to destroy wall at Medmerry and build four miles of walls further inland wins Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award...a scheme involving smashing down a sea wall and allowing 183 hectares to be flooded...a move that may boost morale at the Environment Agency... was chosen ahead of far more glamorous projects for its success in protecting more than 300 homes from inundation. By Robert Booth- Guardian (UK)

Call for entries: IE School of Architecture & Design IE Spaces for Innovation Prize for young architects and designers; prizes include scholarships, paid internships; registration deadline: October 27 (submissions due October 31)- Arquideas / IE School of Architecture and Design

ANN Feature: Why the Starchitect Debate isn't "Stupid": Starchitecture is just a symptom of a much bigger problem in the profession. By Michael J. Crosbie- ArchNewsNow

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